



# O.C.G

## Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (Adaptation Period)

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OCG Guide

[www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie)

## The Irish Language Requirement

Teachers in national schools must be qualified to teach the range of subjects as outlined in the Primary School Curriculum, 1999 (Curaclam na Bunscoile) to children in all classes. The ability to speak Irish proficiently and to use Irish as the language of incidental communication in the classroom is a prerequisite for teaching Irish. Accordingly, teachers who obtained their teaching qualification outside the State and have a curriculum shortfall in Irish must make good this shortfall.

Under the EU Recognition of Professional Qualifications (2005/36/EC) Regulations, 2008, as given effect in S.I. No 139 of 2008, teachers who have a curriculum shortfall in Irish have the choice to make up this shortfall, either by way of an Adaptation Period (OCG – Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge) or an Aptitude Test (SCG – An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge). In the past, teachers who obtained their primary teaching qualification outside of the State undertook the Aptitude Test, *An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge* (SCG), as a means of acquiring the necessary qualification.

The Teaching Council is the designated authority for the recognition of qualifications under the terms of the above EU Directive and the competent authority for the recognition of qualifications obtained outside of the EU. The terms and conditions for employment in recognised schools are determined by the Minister for Education and Skills.

Prospective applicants for the OCG (Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge - Adaptation Period) are referred to the Irish Language Requirement Website [www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie) which outlines the ways in which teachers with a curriculum shortfall for registration purposes in the Irish language can address same.

Prospective applicants seeking to fulfill the Irish Language Requirement (ILR) should be registered with the Teaching Council or have submitted an application for registration. They must choose between the OCG (Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge – Adaptation Period) and the SCG (An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge – Aptitude Test). Candidates must inform the Teaching Council of their choice and must ensure that their conditional registration deems them eligible to undertake their choice of OCG or SCG. The candidate may apply to the Irish Language Requirement Office (Marino Institute of Education) to undertake the OCG or the SCG.

*More information may be found on the Irish Language Requirement website: [www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie)*

## O.C.G. – Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge

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## **Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge (OCG)**

The OCG is an Assessment of competence in Irish and of competence to teach Irish for primary teachers who have obtained their primary teaching qualifications outside of the State. These teachers may obtain full registration (Regulation Two\*) by undertaking an Adaptation Period in a primary school, by obtaining a pass in the OCG Assessment and by completing a three week attendance at a recognised OCG Gaeltacht course. In order to be eligible to undertake the OCG, teachers should be registered with the Teaching Council or have submitted an application for registration. To apply for registration, prospective candidates should contact the Teaching Council. To enrol for the Adaptation Period (OCG), prospective candidates should ensure that their Conditional Registration entitles them to undertake the OCG. *(Prospective candidates may apply for the OCG having applied for and while awaiting the granting of Conditional Registration. It is the responsibility of each prospective candidate to ensure that their Conditional Registration is in place when they undertake the Practical Assessment in the Classroom and Written Assessments and to ensure that their Conditional Registration entitles them to apply for and undertake the OCG. Candidates must forward a copy of their Teaching Council – Confirmation of Registration letter, to the Irish Language Requirement Office when it becomes available to them).*

### **THE STRUCTURE OF THE OCG.**

#### **THE ORGANISATION OF THE OCG:**

The OCG Assessment is held twice during the academic year. The main Assessment is held during the Easter break on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after the Easter Monday bank holiday. A Repeat Assessment is held in late August. The OCG Assessment is held at the Marino Institute of Education, Dublin. The Repeat OCG Assessment in August is also held in the Marino Institute of Education, Dublin. Candidates may repeat any module which they undertook but did not pass at the preceding Easter Assessment.

#### **MODULES:**

The Assessment consists of four modules:

1. The Written Assessment.
2. The Aural Assessment.
3. The Oral Assessment
4. The Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom

(Prospective candidates should note that the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom is assessed in a Primary School classroom.)

The OCG Assessment is modular. Prospective candidates may apply for all modules or for any combination of modules in a particular year.

\* Teaching Council [Registration] Regulations 2009

**STANDARDS:**

The Assessment will require the candidate to demonstrate competence at a level commensurate with graduates of the Bachelor of Education or Graduate Diploma in Education (Primary Teaching) awarded within the State.

Standards required in the O.C.G. will be equivalent to those required in the S.C.G.

**GRADES:**

The pass mark for each module of the OCG is 40%.

To obtain a pass in the OCG, candidates are required to achieve 40% in each module. Candidates may undertake the modules of the OCG Assessment in different years.

**PASS RATES:**

The pass rates (i.e. the number of candidates who obtain a pass in the various modules) of the OCG are available for viewing on the Irish Language Requirement website [www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie). Statistics are also provided for past Assessments and for past repeat Assessments.

**PAST ASSESSMENT PAPERS:**

Past Assessment papers for both the main Assessment at Easter and for the August repeat Assessments are available for download from the Irish Language Requirement website [www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie) . Aural Assessment audio may also be accessed and downloaded.

## SUPPORT MATERIALS:

**There are no prescribed learning materials for the OCG. The support materials listed here are made available to assist candidates in developing competence in Irish and the teaching of Irish. Their use is at the discretion of the candidate.**

Support materials for the OCG are provided at 3 levels.

Level 1.0: Beginner Level.	' <i>Beatha Teanga</i> ' Book text and Audio can be accessed without charge on the website ( <a href="http://www.ilrweb.ie">www.ilrweb.ie</a> ). Book text and/or CD available for purchase from the Irish Language Requirement Office. This is the Irish Language learning material for a course or for self study for beginners.
Level 1.5: Intermediate Level.	' <i>I a Labhairt</i> ' Text and Audio can be accessed without charge on the website ( <a href="http://www.ilrweb.ie">www.ilrweb.ie</a> ). Book and/or CD available for purchase from the Irish Language Requirement Office. This is the Irish Language learning material for a course or for self study for intermediate level.
Level 2.0: Advanced Level.	' <i>Sruth na Maoile</i> ', Digital copy provided to candidates on registration. Hard copy of book and 3 CD's available for purchase from the Irish Language Requirement Office at <a href="http://www.ilrweb.ie">www.ilrweb.ie</a> . This is support material for a course or for self study to support candidates in all aspects of the OCG assessment including the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom. Where relevant other support materials including texts and learning resources will be outlined to candidates where appropriate.

## **PERSONAL STUDY**

It will be the responsibility of the candidate to engage in intensive personal study, individual tuition, attendance at courses, including a compulsory period of three weeks in the Gaeltacht and any other measures necessary to achieve the required competence to teach Irish in a primary school.

Therefore it will be expected that on an ongoing basis, candidates will be receiving self-initiated assistance at a one-to-one level and/or at group level.

## **APPLICATIONS AND ENQUIRIES**

The closing date for receipt of application forms is 31 October.

Application forms, may be accessed from the Irish Language Requirement Website ([www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie))

Application forms should be completed and forwarded to the Irish Language Requirement Office (OCG), Marino Institute of Education by the **closing date, 31 October.**

## **FORMAT OF INDIVIDUAL MODULES:**

Additional information on the format of individual modules may be viewed in Appendix 2. Candidates are also advised to consult *Sruth na Maoile* which contains support material for every part of the Assessment including the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom.

## **THE WRITTEN ASSESSMENT:**

There will be four sections in Paper 1. The Paper will assess the following: writing ability, translating ability, grammatical ability, ability in reading and comprehension and accuracy. The Assessment will last for three hours. The candidate will be required to answer five questions.

### **Section A: Functional Writing (A Letter)**

Candidates will be required to write one letter from a choice of two.

### **Section B: Translation (English to Irish)**

Candidates will have two questions to answer; a ten line conversation and ten individual sentences.

### **Section C: Grammar**

The basic aspects of Irish grammar will be assessed in this section which will consist of 50 short questions, all of which are compulsory.

### **Section D: Reading Comprehension (passages from literature)**

Candidates will select one of two questions. Candidates will be asked to demonstrate that they understand and comprehend the language and the content of the written passage by answering five questions (three assessing basic understanding, two assessing literary understanding).

#### **Overview of The Written Assessment:**

The Written Assessment: 100 marks, Time: 3 hours

Functional Writing (choice of 2) : 30 marks (60 minutes)

Translation from English to Irish (2 questions to answer): 35 marks (60 minutes)

Grammar (50 short questions): 25 marks (40 minutes)

Reading Comprehension (choice of 2 questions): 10 marks (20 minutes)



## **THE AURAL ASSESSMENT:**

The Aural Assessment will assess aural comprehension, - advertisements, conversations and news passages. Five multiple choice style questions will be based on each. Candidates will listen to the announcements, conversation passages and news items on audio tape/compact disc. Candidates must undertake all sections and all questions. The three main dialects will feature in each section: the Munster, Connacht and Ulster dialects. The Assessment will last approximately 50 minutes. The announcements will relate to employment issues, buying or selling, travel and general community activities. The conversation passages will be based on ordinary and normal conversations that may be heard between people as they go about general daily activity. The news passages will consist of a continuous narrative and will be based on aspects of general interest to the community.

### **Overview of the Aural Assessment:**

Aural Assessment: 100 marks, Time: 50 minutes (approx.)

#### **Section A: 30 marks**

Announcement 1

Announcement 2

Announcement 3

#### **Section B: 40 marks**

Conversation 1

Conversation 2

Conversation 3

#### **Section C: 30 marks**

News Passage 1

News Passage 2

News Passage 3

**Multiple choice format: Candidates will listen to audio tape/CD and will select the correct answer from a given list of statements.**

## **THE ORAL ASSESSMENT:**

The three week Gaeltacht course requirement should be fulfilled before undertaking the Oral Irish Assessment. The entire Oral Assessment will be recorded and stored on audio tape. Two examiners and one candidate will be present. The Oral Assessment will last between 15 – 20 minutes. The candidate may converse in the dialect (canúint) of their choice. The phonetics, vocabulary, structure and grammatical models of either dialect (canúint) will be accepted or a combination of these or the Official Standard (Caighdeán Oifigiúil). There are two parts to the Oral Assessment, Picture and Conversation.

### **Picture:**

At the beginning of the Assessment candidates will be asked to demonstrate that they are able to describe what is in a picture and answer questions about it. Three pictures will be placed before the candidate. Candidates will be given five minutes to view and examine the three pictures quietly. The candidate will then be asked to select one of the three pictures. Up to ten questions will then be asked by the assessors about the picture which the candidate has chosen. (To support candidates, 18 sample pictures may be viewed in the course text *Sruth na Maoile*)

### **Conversation:**

The candidate will then engage in a general conversation with the assessors on general everyday topics. To obtain a pass candidates must be able to demonstrate clearly that they can understand the language without difficulty, that they can converse freely and can be clearly understood. They must use accurate grammar and appropriate vocabulary. Their pronunciation and conversation should be reasonably exact. The conversation is the more important part of the Oral Assessment. A listing of everyday topics which may be covered during the general conversation is provided in Appendix 2.

#### **Overview of the Oral Assessment:**

Oral Assessment: 100 marks. Time: 15 – 20 minutes

Picture : approx 5 minutes (20 marks)

General Conversation: approx 15 minutes (80 marks)

## **THE ASSESSMENT OF THE TEACHING OF IRISH IN THE CLASSROOM:**

This aspect of the OCG will be assessed in the classroom. An assessor appointed by the Irish Language Requirement Office will undertake this Assessment. The candidate's preparation and ability in the teaching of Irish will be assessed. The candidate will receive two visits in the chosen academic year of assessment. The candidate will present a file for each visit to the assessor which will contain a yearly scheme, a weekly scheme and the lesson plan for the lesson to be taught. The candidate may teach a lesson that has been taught in the previous three weeks. The candidate's mark will be based on an Assessment of both the file presented and the lesson taught. The school visits will be undertaken in the January-February period. As far as is practical and possible, the candidate and the school principal will receive three weeks notice of the day and approximate time of the visit. Candidates undertaking the repeat Assessment will be visited during June (one visit) and they will receive notification as soon as possible from their assessor. Full details and guidelines of the specific requirements of the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom are outlined in *Sruth na Maoile* and candidates must consult these requirements carefully. In order to achieve a pass in the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom (2 visits), the average mark from both visits must be 40% or above and the candidate must also satisfy the *specific Adaptation Period requirement* as outlined below (page 13 ). Candidates who do not achieve a pass will have the opportunity to repeat the Assessment and this will entail one visit during the month of June. In order to achieve a pass in the repeat assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom (1 visit) the mark from the visit must be 40% or above and the candidate must also satisfy the *specific Adaptation Period requirements* as outlined below ( page 13).

A candidate who does not obtain a pass in the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom in an academic year, will be required to repeat the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom in full, including the *specific Adaptation Period requirement*, in a subsequent academic year, subject to and within the three year Adaptation Period. It should be noted that a candidate will not have passed the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom until they have achieved 40% or above, and until they have satisfied the *specific Adaptation Period requirements* as outlined below (page 13 )

## **Overview of the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom:**

The Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom: 100 marks

Visits period: January – February

Visit A (50 marks)

Yearly Scheme: 10 marks

Weekly Scheme: 5 marks

The Written Lesson Plan: 10 marks

Teaching of the Lesson: 25 marks

Visit B (50 marks)

Yearly Scheme: 10 marks

Weekly Scheme: 5 marks

The Written Lesson Plan: 10 marks

Teaching of the Lesson: 25 marks

Candidates must achieve an average of 40% or above from the 2 visits.

For visit B if a candidate is undertaking the assessment of the Teaching of Irish with the same class as was used for visit A, the same yearly scheme is acceptable but a different weekly scheme and a different lesson plan must be presented. If visit A and visit B are undertaken with different classes then a different yearly scheme, weekly scheme and lesson plan must be presented.

If a candidate fails to present any element of the written preparation for visit A or visit B, that candidate's performance will be assessed as being incomplete and a formal result for that candidate for the assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the classroom will be fail-incomplete.

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Repeat visit if required in June. One visit only. Marked from 100 marks.

In the Repeat Visit the candidate must achieve 40% or above.

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**To achieve a pass in the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom the candidate must achieve the pass mark of 40% or above and must satisfy the *specific Adaptation Period requirement (see page 13)*.**

## **THE ASSESSMENT OF THE TEACHING OF IRISH IN THE CLASSROOM – SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS:**

Applicants for the O.C.G. must undertake the school based Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom. It will be expected that prospective applicants for the OCG would be in continuous employment during the course of the Adaptation Period. Applicants are asked to provide school information on the relevant section of the application form. The school visits will take place during the January – February period and a candidate will receive two visits during this period. The candidate and the school principal will as far as is practical, receive at least three weeks notice of the day and approximate time of the school visits. The onus will be on the candidate to be available at the appointed time. To support candidates full details of the requirements of the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom are outlined in *Sruth na Maoile* and candidates are recommended to consult these carefully. **A candidate must be registered with the Teaching Council to undertake the school practical elements.**

### **Important:**

**To achieve a pass in the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom the candidate must achieve the pass mark of 40% or above and must satisfy the *specific Adaptation Period requirement*.**

### **Specific Adaptation Period Practice Requirement:**

A candidate cannot undertake the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish or attain a pass in that module unless he/she satisfies the special conditions associated with the Adaptation Period, i.e. The candidate must be teaching a mainstream primary class(es). Irish should be taught<sup>1</sup> for at least 120 days<sup>2</sup> during that school year. The days do not have to be necessarily spent in the same school. In any particular school year, after a candidate has spent a certain period of time teaching Irish, a candidate should complete a “Practice Statement” (Appendix 6) stating the number of days he/she has spent teaching Irish in that school. If a candidate teaches Irish in the same school year in another school(s), he/she should fill in an extra Practice Statement(s). On the day of the Examiners visit, the candidate will clarify to the

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<sup>1</sup> Candidates should refer to the suggested minimum weekly time framework on page 70, *Primary Curriculum – Introduction*.

<sup>2</sup> It should be noted that 120 days is the minimum and in many cases candidates will exceed this. It is a requirement that candidates will continue their practice until all school visits have been completed.

Examiner the number of days he/she has spent teaching Irish. If the candidate, at this point has not been teaching Irish for 120 days, the candidate will continue to fulfil the special conditions until he/she has fulfilled them in full. The candidate will then forward the Practice Statement(s) to The Irish Language Requirement Office, Marino Institute of Education and they/it should be signed by the candidate and all of the School Principal(s) of the school(s) where the candidate has been teaching during the year. This clarifies that the special conditions associated with the Adaptation Period has been satisfactorily fulfilled.

**Verification of the *Specific Adaptation Period requirement*:**

Verification of the *Specific Adaptation Period requirement* will be undertaken in a number of ways:

- Candidates will be required to obtain the agreement of the School Principal/Board of Management to undertake the OCG, Adaptation Period in the School.
- Candidates should register with the Teaching Council.
- The candidate's preparation and progress will be assessed by an Assessor appointed by the Irish Language Requirement Office, Marino Institute of Education, in the school visits.
- The candidate must submit a copy of the Specific Adaptation Period Practice Statement(s) with each school visit file submitted.
- The Assessor will verify the information contained in the Specific Adaptation Period Practice Statement(s) which will be included in the candidates school visit file, with the School Principal on the day of the school visit. The assessor will also verify with School Principal that the candidate is a mainstream-class teacher.
- The candidate must submit the Specific Adaptation Period Practice Statement(s) to the Irish Language Requirement Office when the minimum of 120 school days have been achieved.

## **CLASSROOM REQUIREMENT:**

### **WHERE A CANDIDATE IS TEACHING A CLASS AT PRESENT**

It will be expected that applicants opting for the OCG - Adaptation Period, will be in continuous employment during the course of the Adaptation Period. An applicant must be working in a mainstream-class teacher capacity. An applicant must seek the permission of the school Principal to undertake the OCG (Adaptation Period) in the school with the mainstream class(es). The applicant must advise the school(s) where they are employed of the requirements of the Adaptation Period. The applicant must ensure that the school(s) is/are able to provide the necessary support for meeting the requirements of the Adaptation Period. A candidate undertaking the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom will be expected to teach Gaeilge on a regular and ongoing basis consistent with the requirements of the Primary School Curriculum for Gaeilge, if deemed by the school Principal to be competent to teach Irish. If the school principal is of the opinion that the applicant does not have sufficient proficiency in speaking Irish or the necessary competence in teaching Irish, then the principal will assign responsibility for the teaching of Irish to the class to another teacher while the applicant undertakes the necessary professional preparation. **It should be noted, that pupils are entitled to competent Irish Language Instruction at all times<sup>3</sup>.**

### **CALENDAR:**

The calendar for the current academic year is outlined in Appendix 3. The application closing date is 31 October. The Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the classroom takes place during the January - February period. The Written, Oral and Aural Assessments are held on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday after Easter Sunday and the repeat school Assessment takes place in June with the repeat Written, Oral and Aural Assessments held in late August.

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<sup>3</sup> Circular 25/00 Part 2, Section 5 states:

**RESPONSIBILITY OF SCHOOLS, WHO EMPLOY TEACHERS WITH PROVISIONAL RECOGNITION, FOR THE TEACHING OF THE IRISH CURRICULUM**

*Schools who employ teachers with provisional recognition, whether it be in a permanent, temporary or substitute capacity, should note that they have a responsibility to ensure that appropriate arrangements are made for the teaching of the Irish curriculum to the class to which the provisionally recognised teacher is allocated. Under no circumstances should such a class be deprived of competent Irish language tuition. Such schools will be required to show what arrangements are in place to the Department's Inspectors when they visit the schools.*

### **ASSESSMENT TIMETABLE:**

The Assessment timetable for the Easter OCG Assessment is provided in Appendix 4 and the timetable for the Repeat August Assessment in Appendix 5. At the Easter Assessment, The Written Assessment is held on the first morning of Assessments with the Aural Assessment taking place during the afternoon session. Oral Assessments are held on the second and third days of the Easter Assessment. Oral Assessments are scheduled at 20 minute intervals and it is important to attend at least 10 – 15 minutes before the allotted time. The repeat OCG Assessment in August is held over two days. The repeat Oral Assessments are held on both days and are scheduled so as not to clash with any other element of the Assessment.

### **ASSESSMENT DAY PROCEDURE:**

Candidates must sign the roll and present valid photo identification (Passport or Driving Licence) before each individual Assessment they are undertaking. This will take place outside of the Assessment hall for each Assessment. It is important to arrive early in order to find the Assessment hall and to sign the roll before the commencement of the Assessment. On the day of the Assessment, candidates may sign the roll up to one hour before the commencement of the Assessment. Having signed the roll, candidates should proceed directly and enter the Assessment hall. Candidates may bring Assessment study material into the Assessment hall so that they may study before the Assessment. Ten minutes before the commencement of the Assessment, the Assessment hall supervisor will ask candidates to remove the study material to the back of the hall. Detailed Assessment information may be accessed on the Irish Language Requirement website ([www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie)) from early January and comprehensive Assessment details, rules and guidance will issue to individual candidates approximately six weeks prior to the Assessment date.

### **ASSESSMENT VENUES:**

The main OCG Assessment at Easter will be held at the Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9. Detailed venue information may be accessed on the Irish Language Requirement website ([www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie)) from early January. The repeat Assessment venue in August will be the Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9.



## **OCG GAELTACHT COURSES:**

Candidates who undertake the OCG must obtain a pass in each individual module and must fulfill a three week attendance requirement at a recognised OCG Gaeltacht course. A listing of OCG recognised courses is available for download from the Irish Language Requirement website ([www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie)). Fees for OCG Gaeltacht courses are payable directly to the Gaeltacht course providers. The three week attendance requirement may be completed in a block of three weeks or as a combination of weeks. It is strongly recommended that candidates undertake the Gaeltacht requirement before presenting for the Oral Assessment. Candidates should note that they must fulfill the three week attendance requirement at a recognised OCG Gaeltacht course.

**It should be noted that the candidate is required to be resident in the Gaeltacht for three weeks (i.e. 21 days) and to attend a recognised OCG Gaeltacht.**

## **EXEMPTION:**

Candidates who have Irish as a major subject of their degree qualification may apply for an exemption from parts of the OCG. Candidates who are granted an exemption will have to undertake the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom module. Prospective candidates wishing to apply for an exemption from parts of the OCG can do so on the OCG Application Form. The OCG Exemption Policy is outlined in Appendix 7

## **REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS:**

Arrangements for candidates with Physical and Learning Difficulties: Candidates with permanent or long-term conditions, including visual and/or hearing difficulties, or specific learning difficulties, which they believe will significantly impair their performance in the Assessments, may apply to the Co-ordinator, Irish Language Requirement Office for reasonable accommodation(s) to be made to facilitate them taking the Assessments.

The reasonable accommodations are intended to:

....remove, as far as possible, the impact of the disability on the candidate's performance and thus enable the candidate to demonstrate his or her level of attainment and ensure that, whilst giving candidates every opportunity to demonstrate their level of attainment, the special arrangements will not give the candidate an unfair advantage over other candidates in the same Assessment.

All applications for reasonable accommodations are considered on a case by case basis. In as far as it is applicable and practical to do so, accommodations are assessed in light of the report of the Expert Advisory Group on State Assessments and, where appropriate and applicable to do so, on the Framework of Principles as set out by the Expert Advisory Group on State Assessments. A candidate who is dissatisfied with any aspect of a decision in relation to an application for reasonable accommodations may appeal that decision.

## **ASSESSMENT RESULTS:**

Assessment results will issue in accordance with the OCG calendar (Appendix 3). Results will issue directly to each candidate by post. Results will not be given over the telephone. The results will issue to the address the candidate has given to the Irish Language Requirement Office at the time of application or as subsequently notified to the Irish Language Requirement Office by the candidate.

## **APPEALS' AND VIEWING OF ASSESSMENT SCRIPTS' PROCEDURE:**

Full details of the Appeals Procedure and the Viewing of Scripts Procedure will issue with the candidate's Assessment results.

The Viewing of Scripts advisory session will take place approximately one week after the issue of assessment results and is normally held on a Friday evening (see OCG calendar –Appendix 3). The Viewing of Scripts will take place at Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9. Candidates may view their Assessment scripts and, where relevant, their Teaching of Irish in the Classroom files. Candidates may listen to their Oral Assessment recording. A candidate may be accompanied to the Viewing of Scripts' session by one adult guest. The Viewing of Scripts' session is conducted according to strict guidelines with which the candidate and guest must comply. Having viewed the script(s) and file(s), and/or having listened to the recording, a candidate may consult with a lecturer from Rannóg na Gaeilge, Marino Institute of Education. The consultation is only available to the candidate.

Candidates, having viewed their Assessment script(s) may decide to proceed to an Appeal if they wish. It is not necessary to view the script to undertake an Appeal. Appeal results will issue as outlined on the OCG calendar (Appendix 3).

## **O.C.G. COMPLETION CERTIFICATE:**

Upon completion of the O.C.G. candidates may apply for an O.C.G. Completion Certificate from the Irish Language Requirement Office. The completion certificate will issue by email to the candidate. A Completion Certificate Request Form may be accessed at [www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie).

### Who may apply for an O.C.G. Completion Certificate:

- 1) A candidate who has completed and passed the four modules of the O.C.G. (Assessment of the Teaching of Irish, Written Assessment , Aural and Oral Assessments) and who has satisfied the three weeks, Gaeltacht attendance requirement may apply for an O.C.G. Completion Certificate.  
Or
- 2) A candidate who has been granted an exemption from parts of the O.C.G. and who has completed and passed the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish module and who has satisfied the three weeks, Gaeltacht attendance requirement may apply for an O.C.G. Completion Certificate.

PLEASE NOTE THAT CERTIFICATES WILL ONLY ISSUE WHEN CANDIDATES HAVE SATISFIED THE REQUIREMENTS AT 1 OR 2 ABOVE. CANDIDATES MUST APPLY FOR A COMPLETION CERTIFICATE.

# APPENDIX 1

## Contact Information

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

### **For queries in relation to the Irish Language Requirement, Exemptions and/or OCG, contact:**

The Irish Language Requirement Office (OCG),  
Marino Institute of Education,  
Griffith Avenue,  
Dublin 9.

Tel: +353 1 8535134  
Web: [www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie)  
E-mail: [ocginfo@mie.ie](mailto:ocginfo@mie.ie)

### **For queries in relation to Teacher Registration contact:**

The Teaching Council  
Block A,  
Maynooth Business Campus,  
Maynooth,  
Co. Kildare.

Tel: +353 1 651 7900  
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Web: [www.teachingcouncil.ie](http://www.teachingcouncil.ie)  
E-mail: [info@teachingcouncil.ie](mailto:info@teachingcouncil.ie)

# APPENDIX 2

## O.C.G. Module Format

**O.C.G.**  
**OIRIÚNÚ Le hAGHAIDH CÁILÍOCHTA SA GHAEILGE**  
**(ADAPTATION PERIOD)**

<b>Written Assessment</b> <b>This Paper is a three hour Assessment</b>	<b>Aural Assessment</b> <b>The Aural Assessment lasts 50 Minutes (approx.)</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Written Assessment (100 marks)</b></p> <p>Five questions to answer. The Assessment will assess writing, translation, grammar, reading comprehension, and accuracy.</p> <p><b>Section A (30 marks)</b></p> <p>1. (a) Functional writing – A Letter or 2. (b) Functional writing – A Letter</p> <p><b>Section B (35 marks)</b></p> <p>3. Translation (Translation from English to Irish) <b>and</b> 4. Translation</p> <p><b>Section C (25 marks)</b></p> <p>5. Grammar (50 short questions)</p> <p><b>Section D (10 marks)</b></p> <p>6. Reading Comprehension or 7. Reading Comprehension</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>An Triail Chluastuisceana (100 marks)</b></p> <p><b>Candidates will listen to an audio CD and answer multiple choice format questions.</b> (This test will assess aural comprehension – announcements, conversations and news items . Five questions based on each.</p> <p><b>Section A (30 marks)</b> Announcement 1 Announcement 2 Announcement 3</p> <p><b>Section B (40 marks)</b> Conversation 1 Conversation 2 Conversation 3</p> <p><b>Section C (30 marks)</b> News Passage 1 News Passage 2 News Passage 3</p>

<b>Oral Irish Assessment</b> <b>The Oral Assessment will last 15-20 mins. (approx)</b>	<b>Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom.</b>																		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Oral Irish Assessment (100 marks)</b></p> <p>Questions to be answered on a picture (20 marks), followed by an interview in Gaeilge (80 marks).</p> <p><b>Sample Themes and Topics:</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td>Mise</td> <td>M'Áit Dúchais</td> </tr> <tr> <td>An Mhúinteoireacht</td> <td>An Teach agus an Timpeallacht</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Imeachtaí an Lae</td> <td>Cúrsaí Sláinte agus Cúram Coirp</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bia agus Deoch</td> <td>Am Saor</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Léitheoireacht</td> <td>An Teilifís</td> </tr> <tr> <td>An Phictiúrlann</td> <td>Taisteal</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Siopadóireacht</td> <td>Seirbhísí</td> </tr> <tr> <td>An Aimsir</td> <td>Mo Chuid Oiliúna mar Mhúinteoir</td> </tr> <tr> <td>An Ghaeltacht</td> <td>An O.C.G.</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>Three week Gaeltacht Course requirement should be fulfilled before undertaking the Oral Irish Assessment.</b>  <b>(Two Examiners will be present)</b></p>	Mise	M'Áit Dúchais	An Mhúinteoireacht	An Teach agus an Timpeallacht	Imeachtaí an Lae	Cúrsaí Sláinte agus Cúram Coirp	Bia agus Deoch	Am Saor	Léitheoireacht	An Teilifís	An Phictiúrlann	Taisteal	Siopadóireacht	Seirbhísí	An Aimsir	Mo Chuid Oiliúna mar Mhúinteoir	An Ghaeltacht	An O.C.G.	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the classroom (100 marks)</b></p> <p>Two school visits. Assessment of preparation and teaching of Gaeilge.</p> <p><b>Visit A (50 marks)</b> Yearly Scheme: 10 marks Weekly scheme: 5 marks Lesson Plan: 10 marks Teaching of the lesson: 25 marks</p> <p><b>Visit B (50 marks)</b> Yearly Scheme: 10 marks Weekly scheme: 5 marks Lesson Plan: 10 marks Teaching of the lesson: 25 marks  <b>(Repeat assessment will be one visit only)</b></p>
Mise	M'Áit Dúchais																		
An Mhúinteoireacht	An Teach agus an Timpeallacht																		
Imeachtaí an Lae	Cúrsaí Sláinte agus Cúram Coirp																		
Bia agus Deoch	Am Saor																		
Léitheoireacht	An Teilifís																		
An Phictiúrlann	Taisteal																		
Siopadóireacht	Seirbhísí																		
An Aimsir	Mo Chuid Oiliúna mar Mhúinteoir																		
An Ghaeltacht	An O.C.G.																		

*Candidates must fulfill a three week attendance at a recognised O.C.G. Gaeltacht Course.*

*Candidates are strongly recommended to undertake the Gaeltacht Course before undertaking the Oral Examination.*

*Classroom Requirements: Candidates undertaking the O.C.G. will require a substantial period in a mainstream class-teacher capacity in order to undertake the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom. Candidates must arrange this and must receive the permission of the principal teacher/board of management. Full details and comprehensive preparatory notes are available in 'Sruth na Maoile' available from the Irish Language Requirement Office.*

[www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie)

# APPENDIX 3

## O.C.G. Calendar

The current OCG calendar can be accessed at [www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie)



# APPENDIX 4

## O.C.G. Assessment Timetable

The current OCG Assessment Timetable can be accessed at [www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie)

# APPENDIX 5

## O.C.G. Repeat Assessment Timetable August

The current OCG Repeat Assessment Timetable (August) can be accessed at [www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie)

# APPENDIX 6

## O.C.G. SPECIFIC ADAPTATION PERIOD REQUIREMENT RECORD TEMPLATE

**OCG – OIRIÚNÚ le hAGHAIDH CÁILÍOCHTA SA GHAELGE  
SPECIFIC ADAPTATION PERIOD PRACTICE STATEMENT**

Irish Language Requirement Office (OCG), Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9. (T. 01 8535134)

<p><b>Candidate Name:</b> PRINT (BLOCK LETTERS) _____</p> <p>Signature _____ Date _____</p>	<p><b>Assessment No:</b> _____</p> <p><b>P.P.S. No:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Teacher No:</b> _____</p> <p><b>School Tel No:</b> _____</p>
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<b>FOR COMPLETION BY CANDIDATE</b>					<b>FOR COMPLETION BY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL</b>
School Roll Number	School Name & Address	Date the candidate commenced the teaching of Irish in this school in the current academic year	No. of <u>school days</u> of teaching of Irish completed to date in this school in current academic year.	Was the teaching of Irish listed on this form consistent with the requirements of the curriculum for Gaeilge* <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	I verify that the information on this form is true to the best of my knowledge.  Principal's Signature: _____  Date: _____  IS/HAS THE CANDIDATE BEEN WORKING IN A MAINSTREAM CLASS TEACHER CAPACITY. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 100px; height: 100px; margin: auto;"></div>					

GUIDANCE FOR CANDIDATE	GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
<p>The candidate must be working in a mainstream class teacher capacity. The candidate must maintain an accurate <i>Specific Adaptation Period requirement Record</i>. The candidate must include a <u>copy</u> of an up-to-date record in the file presented to the assessor for <u>each</u> school visit. The candidate should retain original copies. The up-to-date record presented in the file must be signed by the school principal. The assessor will verify the information with the school principal on the day(s) of the visit(s). If undertaking the repeat Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom an up-to-date <i>Specific Adaptation Period requirement Record</i> must be presented in the file also. If the candidate has undertaken practice in a number of schools then a <u>copy</u> of the <i>Specific Adaptation Period requirement Record</i> for each school, signed by the school principal in each school must be submitted in the file. On completion of the minimum (120 days) practice requirement the candidate must forward the <u>original</u> <i>Specific Adaptation Period requirement Record(s)</i> to the Irish Language Requirement Office at the address given above. Irrespective of the marks obtained, the Assessment in the Teaching of Irish in the classroom will be incomplete until evidence of completion of the 120 day requirement is forwarded to the Irish Language Requirement Office by the candidate.</p>	<p>The candidate must be working in a <u>mainstream class teacher capacity for the duration of each school day</u>. Candidates undertaking an Adaptation Period are required as part of the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom to undertake a minimum of 120 school days of practice in the Teaching of Irish in the classroom in the Academic Year in which they undertake the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom Assessment. The 120 days may if necessary be undertaken in 1 or more schools so as to achieve the required 120 days during the Academic Year. Candidates are required to undertake practice in the Teaching of Irish which is ongoing, regular and consistent with the requirements of the Revised Primary Curriculum for Gaeilge.  *Candidates and School Principals are referred to the suggested minimum weekly time framework on page 70, Primary School Curriculum- Introduction, in this regard. Candidates must be registered with the Teaching Council to undertake an Adaptation Period.</p>

<p>IF APPLICABLE: Assessor's Signature: _____ Date: _____</p>	<p>VISIT A: <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>VISIT B: <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Information <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Verified with principal <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>Assessor's Notes:</p>
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# APPENDIX 7

## O.C.G. Exemption Policy

# GUIDELINES FOR OCG EXEMPTION

## INTRODUCTION

### The Irish Language Requirement

Teachers in national schools must be qualified to teach the range of subjects as outlined in the Primary School Curriculum -1999 (Curaclam na Bunscoile) to children in all classes. The ability to speak Irish proficiently and to use Irish as the language of incidental communication in the classroom is a prerequisite for teaching Irish. Accordingly, teachers who obtained their teaching qualification outside the State and have a curriculum shortfall in Irish must make good this shortfall.

Under the EU Recognition of Professional Qualifications (2005/36/EC) Regulations, 2008, as given effect in S.I. No 139 of 2008, teachers who have a curriculum shortfall in Irish have the choice to make up this shortfall, either by way of an Aptitude Test (SCG – An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge) or an Adaptation Period (OCG – Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge). In the past, teachers who obtained their primary teaching qualification outside the State undertook the aptitude test, *An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge* (SCG), as a means of acquiring the necessary qualification.

The Teaching Council is the designated authority for the recognition of qualifications under the terms of the above EU Directive and the competent authority for the recognition of qualifications obtained outside of the EU. The terms and conditions for employment in recognised schools are determined by the Minister for Education and Science.

Prospective applicants for the OCG (Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge – Adaptation Period) are referred to the Irish Language Requirement Website [www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie) which outlines the ways in which teachers with a curriculum shortfall for registration purposes in the Irish language can address same.

Prospective applicants seeking to fulfill the Irish Language Requirement (ILR) should be registered with the Teaching Council or have submitted an application for Registration. They must choose between the SCG (An Scrúdú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge – Aptitude Test) and the OCG (Oiriúnú le hAghaidh Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge – Adaptation Period). Candidates must inform the Teaching Council of their choice and must ensure that their conditional registration deems them eligible to undertake their choice of SCG or OCG. The candidate must apply to the Irish Language Requirement Office (Marino Institute of Education) to undertake the SCG or the OCG.

## **1. THE IRISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT**

In order to satisfy the Irish language requirement applicants have two options.

### **Option 1**

- Pass the written, aural, oral and practical elements of the Qualifying Irish Examination (Scrúdú Cáilíochta sa Ghaeilge) (SCG) Further information on the SCG may be downloaded from the Irish Language Requirement Website [www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie); and
- Provide certification that they have resided in the Gaeltacht while attending an approved three-week course or its aggregated equivalent either in one-week blocks, or in a combination of one-week and two-week blocks.

### **Option 2**

- Complete the requirements of the Qualifying Irish Adaptation Period (Oiriúnú don Cháilíocht sa Ghaeilge)(OCG), and
- Provide certification that they have resided in the Gaeltacht while attending an approved three-week course or its aggregated equivalent either in one-week blocks, or in a combination of one-week and two-week blocks.

Details of approved Gaeltacht courses for the SCG/OCG are available from the Irish Language Requirement Website [www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie)

## **2. EXEMPTION FROM ELEMENTS OF OCG**

Candidates may apply for an exemption from some elements of the OCG where they have already met the essential requirements of those elements and can produce the required documentary evidence to support their application.

### **2.1 Exemption Criteria**

Candidates who have Irish as a major subject of their degree qualification (See paragraph 3) may apply for an exemption from elements of the OCG. Candidates who are granted an exemption will, however, be required to:

- Undertake the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom.
- Comply with the Gaeltacht requirement (See paragraph 4)

Candidates who have already complied with the Gaeltacht requirement may seek an exemption from this element of the OCG programme. Where a candidate is seeking exemption from part or all of the Gaeltacht requirement (3 weeks) he/she must provide

written documentation from the college in which the original degree (where Irish was a major subject) was undertaken, indicating that the week(s) of Gaeltacht attendance for which exemption is/are being sought were undertaken as part of the original degree.

A candidate seeking exemption from the Gaeltacht requirement must have attended the Gaeltacht course in the capacity of a learner.

### **3. DEGREE REQUIREMENT**

The following are important points regarding eligibility for an exemption from the OCG where a candidate presents with Irish as a major subject at primary degree level:

- The candidate must provide documentation (See note below) which establishes that he/she has Irish as a major subject at primary degree level.
- The candidate must provide a copy of the original transcript of their degree qualification.
- The transcript must be clearly legible and must indicate the subjects/modules/components undertaken in each year of the degree qualification and the marks awarded.
- It should be noted that a candidate presenting as having a degree in Irish where in fact the degree is in Celtic Studies is not entitled to exemption. (A degree in Celtic Studies, where much of the work is undertaken through the medium of English, does not equate with a degree in Irish. Therefore a candidate with a degree in Celtic Studies does not qualify to be exempted from any element of the OCG programme.)

### **4. GAELTACHT REQUIREMENT:**

OCG candidates are required to provide certification that they have resided in the Gaeltacht while attending an approved three-week course or its aggregated equivalent either in one-week blocks, or in any combination of one-week and two-week blocks. Details of DES approved Gaeltacht courses are available on the Irish Language Requirement website [www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie). The following specific requirements should be noted:

- The criteria for full recognition require that OCG candidates attend for three weeks at an approved course in the Gaeltacht. **There is no exemption from this requirement.**
- The candidate must reside in the Gaeltacht for the duration of the course.



- The course may be taken while studying for a degree which has Irish as a major subject, or it may be a DES approved course taken when the candidate commences the OCG programme.
- Candidates should note that week(s) spent on a Gaeltacht course in the capacity of a ceannaire/cinnire/teacher giving instruction/or any other ancillary role, may not be reckoned for exemption purposes.

### Summary of OCG requirements where candidates have been granted an exemption

	Element	Detail
<b>A</b>	The Assessment of the Teaching of Irish in the Classroom.	School-based evaluation based on minimum of two school visits by supervisor.  Candidate must be in continuous employment in a mainstream class teacher capacity for a minimum of 120 days in the academic year in which this module is taken.
<b>B</b>	Gaeltacht Course Requirement	Attend for 3 weeks at an approved Gaeltacht course

Prospective Candidates should refer to the OCG Guide which is available to download from the Irish Language Requirement website [www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie) for further details of the specific requirements listed above.

Full details and guidance on the above requirements are provided in the OCG textbook 'Sruth na Maoile' which is available from the Irish Language Requirement Office, Marino Institute of Education, Griffith Avenue, Dublin 9. 01 8535134 [ocginfo@mie.ie](mailto:ocginfo@mie.ie)

## 5. APPLYING FOR THE OCG

Prospective candidates wishing to apply for the OCG should do so on the OCG APPLICATION FORM which may be accessed on the Irish Language Requirement Website [www.ilrweb.ie](http://www.ilrweb.ie). If also applying for an exemption, the candidate should indicate accordingly in the relevant section on the OCG APPLICATION FORM and should complete the EXEMPTION APPLICATION section of the OCG APPLICATION FORM. Candidates applying for an exemption should apply for the Assessment of the Teaching of Irish module.

## **6. NOTIFICATION OF DECISION**

Prospective candidates who complete and submit the OCG EXEMPTION APPLICATION section of the OCG APPLICATION FORM and enclose the necessary documentation will normally be notified of a decision within 6 weeks of submitting the request for exemption.

### **NOTE**

It is the responsibility of the eligible candidate to apply for the exemption at the appropriate time and to provide the necessary documentation as requested in the EXEMPTION APPLICATION section of the OCG APPLICATION FORM. While clear copies of transcripts will suffice, the Irish Language Requirement Office may request a candidate to provide original documentation. In circumstances where original documentation is requested, it will be returned to the candidate in due course.